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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 062709-0118

In re patent application of

Nobuo ICHIMURA et al.

Serial No.: 10/717,913

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: November 21, 22003

Examiner: David Bochna

For: STRUCTURE FOR CONNECTING TWO MEMBERS, METHOD THEREFOR,
AND DIERESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

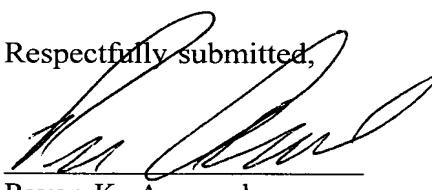
Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 26, 2005, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-4, for prosecution in the subject application.

Upon allowance of the elected claims, Applicants will be permitted to request rejoinder in accordance with MPEP 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed.Cir. 1995) of method claims 5-8.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
P.O. Box 25696
Washington, D.C. 20007-8696
(202) 672-5300